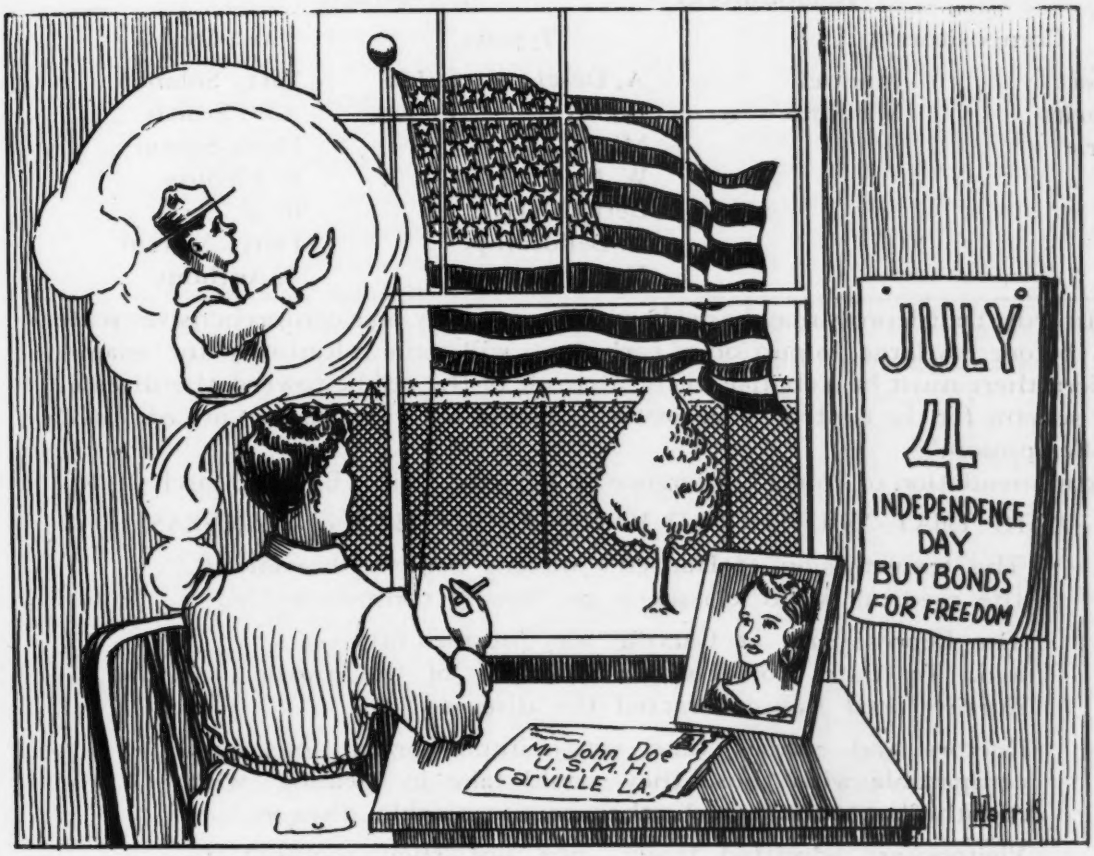
THE STAR

RADIATING THE LIGHT OF TRUTH ON HANSEN'S DISEASE



"..... WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL."

July 1945 Vol. 4 — No. 11

RADIATING THE LIGHT OF TRUTH ON HANSEN'S DISEASE.

Published monthly by patients of the United States Marine Hospital, National Leprosarium, Carville, Louisiana.

Instructive or amusing articles, poems, etc. are solicited and will be used as space and occasion permits. All material must be signed.

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"In order that leprosy may be dealt with successfully on a comprehensive scale and before any large proportion of early cases will come voluntarily for examination, there must be a change in the attitude of the public toward the disease, Any scheme for the control of leprosy will depend for its success on an educated public opinion."

Recommendation of World Conference on Leprosy, Cairo, Egypt, March 1938.

FACTS THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HANSEN'S DISEASE.

The transmission of Hansen's disease being still unsolved, the medical world classes it as "feebly communicable."

The Leprosarium at Carville was founded fifty years ago. To date not a single member of the medical or nursing staff has contracted the disease.

Doctors and nurses take very simple precautions, not comparable with those they would take in dealing with diphtheria, typhoid and other communicable diseases.

Visitors are admitted freely, nor are they required to take any special precautions.

Patients are permitted to visit their homes semi-annually for short periods.

WHY AM I NOT FREE?

Betty Martin

WHY — am I, an American, denied my rightful heritage — LIBERTY, JUSTICE and the PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS, when my only crime is being sick?

WHY — does my native state, Louisiana, place my sickness in the same category with Smallpox, Asiatic Cholera, Yellow Fever and Bubonic Plague, (Act No. 79 of 1921 of the Louisiana Legislature as amended, Section 15, paragraph 3) when Medical Authorities agree it is but FEEBLY communicable?

WHY — does my state have a law that can tear me away from my husband, children, mother, father and everyone I love, (leaving them destitute if I am their sole support) and condemn me to a federal institution for 1, 5, 10, years and maybe for life, when I've commited no crime?

WHY — does my country and my state isolate me in an institution that is located in a humid, debilitating climate which reduces my disease-resisting vitality, instead of sending me to a more healthful climate where my physical vigor could be at its peak?

WHY — if I wish to protect my family from unjust and unbelievable disgrace and humiliation, am I forced by an unwritten law (prejudice) to lose my identity by changing my name and lying about my whereabouts once I enter this institution?

WHY — though I be honorable, once I enter this institution I am despised as an enemy, expected to lose my dignity and self respect, and have no more hope for the future than a stately tree that is plucked up?

WHY — am I made to feel that it is a disgrace to come to this institution instead of a privilege, when it is the only hospital in the country where I can get the medical treatment I need?

WHY — after I enter this institution am I no longer permitted the right to vote, and until 1945 my fellow patients were not even permitted to register for Selective Service?

WHY — is my labor, mental or physical, however efficient, worth so much less than the labor of the non-patients employed in this institution?

WHY — does my country and my state cling to antiquated rules and laws to govern my kind of people, when less progressive countries have adopted more humane and effective means? Do they not know that "man does not live by bread alone".

WHY — does the MEDICAL WORLD which has the power to change my unfortunate predicament by ONE LITTLE WORD, refuse to remove my disease from the stigmatic, generic, biblical term "Leprosy" when it has given all the other diseases which "Leprosy" covered in the Bible more scientific names?

WHY — should I stand silently by watching some of our boys who have gone through the inferno of the European and Pacific wars, being condemned

by ONE LITTLE WORD to this institution and years of another kind of inferno in their own country?

WHY — do some of you who call yourselves CHRISTIANS continue to break me in pieces with ONE LITTLE WORD, and torture my spirit, when CHRIST TAUGHT YOU BETTER?

WHY — must I spend years here waiting for a discharge marked "NO LONGER A MENACE TO PUBLIC HEALTH" when it is not even honored by the hospital that gives it?

WHY — once I've earned a discharge, no effort whatsoever is made to rehabilitate me?

Please, PLEASE, SOMEONE, SOMEWHERE, give me RATIONAL answers to my RATIONAL questions, or else — SET ME FREE.

Confucius said, "It is better to light one small candle than to curse the darkness."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Entering this hospital as a patient 17 years ago, then a girl in her teens, Betty Martin, the author of the series of searching questions in "Why Am I Not Free?", knows full well whereof she speaks. Her personal experience story is one replete with human interest, even the brief sketch of it which we will give here is meaningful.

A well known Louisiana Skin specialist diagnosed her case, with only a small, faint spot on the thigh accounting for the disease. This doctor was an alarmist, frightening her and her family unnecessarily by his unintelligent and prejudiced attitude, certainly not a scientific one. Before she had even recovered from the shock of diagnosis, he insisted that she resign her responsible

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E. R. KELLERSBERGER M. D.

Dr. Kellersberger, General Secretary of the American Mission and author of the "comments" on page 3, is one of the country's foremost authorities on tropical diseases. He is in demand as a speaker at medical schools and other centers where American Army and Navy doctors are being trained for tropical service.

Dr. Kellersberger is a native Texan and, with his wife, Mrs. Julia Lake Kellersberger, served as a medical missionary in the Belgian Congo for 24 years where he founded the Bibanga Medical service and hospital and the Bibanga Agricultural Leprosy Colony. For his work, the king of Belgium awarded him two distinguished decorations. Dr. Kellersberger is a member of the Southern Medical Association, American Society of Tropical Medicine, Belgian Society of Tropical Medicine, Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and International Leprosy Association He was delegate of the Belgian government to the World Leprosy Congress at Cairo, Egypt, in 1938.

A STUDY OF AN ARTICLE BY F. C. LENDRUM, M. D. OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, ENTITLED "THAT TRAGIC NAME OF LEPROSY".

E. R. Kellersbeger, M. D., General Secretary, American Mission, New York

DR. F. C. Lendrum and the "Modern Hospital" are to be congratulated for the publication of such a fine article. The General Secretary and the entire Branch Office Secretarial Staff of this Mission approve the article and its purpose. Our beloved Chaplain, Rev. C. E. Rash, has presented similar and other scriptural expositions to our staff in a series of lectures which we have requested him to publish.

At the recent meeting of the Secretatarial Staff of our Mission, the Branch Office Secretaries voted to print in every issue of their district papers the following slogan: "Christianity in Action Against Hansen's Disease." Individually we are all striving to have the word "leper" dropped from our printed material and from our messages and are educating others not to use it. We are also eager to help make the lot of the patients at Carville more like that of voluntary patients in other medical institutions.

Any subject in order to be clearly understood must have wholesome publicity. Such publicity and discussion of the subject of leprosy is exactly what is needed today. Our Mission, in a special way, is fostering such publicity by its literature and by thousands of public meetings and groups of all kinds over the United States, as well as by interviews, by discussion groups, by letters, and by individual conferences. Mr. Stanley Stein of THE STAR has stated that four-fifths of all publicity gathered through their clipping bureau came from our organization. We are having a large share in bringing the whole subject before the American public, a subject that people don't want to talk about as a rule.

It is a wholesome sign when a professor of medicine becomes interested. Thank God that times are changing rapidly. When the question of giving lectures on tropical diseases has been broached in connetion with medical schools and when it is suggested that the main topic be leprosy, the answer usually has been "We are not interested in leprosy." But the ever-increasing work and influence of hundreds of missionary-doctors and nurses and other workers is making itself felt. The outreach into the far corners of the world resulting from the global war has proved that leprosy, though not strictly a tropical disease, does concern all of us just as much as do all other tropical diseases. Therefore, it is time that we re-examine this subject which has been for so long "tabooed", and about which we have such grotesque and foolish ideas. It gives us an opportunity to review the whole situation in a just light.

I was recently told by the family of a person with leprosy that they could not agree to his going to Carville because they would never see him again, and he would never be able to return. This, of course, is far from true, but it is this fear in the hearts of those with the disease that makes them hide it whenever possible. Only when people will come voluntarily and early for treatment will we be able to keep more cases from developing. When we treat them like any other sick person, we will remove the tragedy of the name of leprosy!

The real tragedy is that it is not generally known that leprosy is only a mildly contagious disease, is not inherited, tends to cure itself spontaneously under favorable conditions, and can easily be prevented. According to Dr. Robert Cochrane, the great leprosy expert of India, it is really a children's disease, as most cases are contracted between the years of five and fifteen years. He states that if we can keep children from contacting open cases, the disease will gradually die out.

The recently organized Postwar Campaign of this organization is a step in that direction. It is the purpose of this plan to make it possible to prevent leprosy in children. This is to be done throughout the world in already established great missionary teaching centers where hundreds of men and women are to be trained and educated and to be sent back to their own people. We like to call this noble form of service by the name of "Christian Preventive Medicine." There is a tendency to blame the Bible for our cruel attitude toward leprosy; this is not true! There are many misconceptions about the actual part that leprosy plays in the ceremonial laws of the Hebrews, and just what the word "unclean" means. We believe that Dr. F. C. Lendrum in his splendid article has given a very fine study of the whole question, and we are grateful to him for the light he throws on the subject. Society has applied the term "unclean" only to cases of leprosy. This cruel attitude is world-wide and age-old and is found where Christianity had never even been known. It must be largely due to the terrible effect on the victims, so visible in neglected cases. In our opinion, syphilis and tuberculosis are far more destructive and hideous in their result, but one is less aware of it. To illustrate this, the average first question asked by an ignorant layman is "Don't these people have their arms and their feet drop off?" When we revise this misconception and ignorance, there will no longer be any tragedy connected with the name leprosy. It is unlikely that this name will ever disappear from our medical textbooks, but it is entirely appropriate that the name Hansen's disease, as a synonym, should be used more and more. Three great organizations still use the name "leprosy" and without stigma — namely, British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, American Leprosy Foundation (Leonard Wood Memorial), and International Leprosy Association.

The writer is inclined to agree with the position taken by Dr. Morris Fishbein, editor of the American Medical Journal, as quoted in THE STAR, January, 1943, as follows: "under the manuscript editing rules of the A. M. A. the term "leper" cannot be used in any of the American Medical Association publications". "While thus disapproving of the word 'leper' the A. M. A. is not now willing to accept 'Hansen's disease' as a substitute for the word 'leprosy'. From a memorandum prepared by an editorial associate of Dr. Fishbein we quote, 'Aside from the problem of eponyms there are certain other considerations involved in the naming of this disease. If the name is loathsome then the disease becomes no less loathsome by covering it up by using a name which fewer people understand. Indeed, it would seem from our experience with syphilis that more can be done by publicity under the right name than by concealing both the disease and the name from the public eye' ".

Mr. Stein, the editor of your unique paper, stated to me in a recent confer-

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EDITOR'S DESK

Dr. Kellersberger's article is very good but it does not fulfill the promise held out by its caption of being a "STUDY" of Dr. Lendrum's article. We realize that in so short an article Dr. Kellersberger could not enter into a lengthy discussion of Dr. Lendrum's scholarly paper, but from a study one would expect a close examination of the cardinal points of the paper under discussion.

If you read Dr. Lendrum's article, "That Tragic Name of Leprosy" (Star-March 1945) and if you are genuinely interested in our problem, you will recall that his article dealt with the leprosy of the Bible, its religious and medical aspects. Dr. Lendrum stated point-blank that the public problem of the disease, we now call leprosy, results from an erroneous translation of the Old Testament and that the irrational fear of the disease is due largely to the Biblical association of the name. Of basic importance in Dr. Lendrum's article was his contention that the name "leprosy" as applied to the disease caused by infection with Hansen's bacillus is scientifically incorrect. He cited as supporting evidence that the most characteristic features of infection with Hansen bacillus (such as nerve involvement with the loss of sensation in the extremities) are nowhere mentioned in the 13th chapter of Leviticus which deals with the diagnostic data of leprosy.

Dr. Kellersberger did not comment on these salient points of Dr. Lendrum's paper and as Dr. Kellersberger is both a minister and a physician his opinion would have been interesting. Instead Dr. Kellersberger merely dismisses Dr. Lendrum's convincing evidence by saying, "There is a tendency to blame the Bible for our cruel attitude toward leprosy; this is not true!" In his speaking tours over the country Dr. Kellersberger must encounter scores of people who shudder at the very mention of the word "leprosy" solely because of its Biblical association, the only way they have ever heard it.

Dr. Kellersberger recognizes the injustice of using the word "leper" because of its historical association of fear and horror, and in a recent letter to us stated that he would urge the Board of Directors of the "American Mission to Lepers" at their next meeting to modify the organization's name. This step has already been taken by the I. C. L. M., also a missionary group (page 11). However, Dr. Kellersberger, like Dr. Fishbein of the American Medical Association, while disapproving "leper" approves of the word "leprosy". Why not a complete change of nomenclature while we're at it, eliminating both words which are offensive to the patients. This would be in keeping with the modern concepts of the disease and under a new name the general public would not associate it with an ancient Biblical plague. Neither would it be an attempt to camouflage by using a term which fewer people understand. The word "leprosy" conveys to the average mind anything but the scientific facts of the disease. If the American Medical Association would take proper official action, Hansen's disease or a term more acceptable, if one could be found, could be adopted as was done by replacing "consumption" with "tuberculosis". In his article, Dr. Lendrum stated that numerous large hospitals and clinics refuse

to employ the word "leprosy" at all because of the fear that other patients, nurses and even physicians would desert the institution simply on account of the horror historically associated with the name. Dr. Lendrum was not talking through his hat. Some time ago The Star learned that important experimental work was being conducted in a general hospital on a group of patients with Hansen's disease. In answer to our inquiry we recieved a communication which speaks for itself. It read in part, " Much as I dislike to with-hold from you any information for which you ask, I must do so in regard to the hospital which is doing experimental work on patients with leprosy. There exists in the minds of most people an unreasoning fear of leprosy because of its name, and if the least publicity is given to the fact that an institution which treats all kinds of diseases is also taking leprous patients, a great deal of trouble is sure to result. The fact that the sanitary codes are being strictly observed would not weigh heavily with a frightened public".

We are not unmindful of Dr. Kellersberger's humane and modern attitude toward our problem as expressed in his article and in his talks before the public. In his statements that we should be treated like any other sick person and that "the lot of patients in Carville (should be) more like that of voluntary patients in other medical institutions." Dr. Kellersberger has compressed into a very few words the basis if our fight, that is, that we be placed on the same plane and accorded the same consideration given to persons suffering with diseases admitted by the medical world to be much more infectious.

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QUESTION BOX

Why do people abhor and fear leprosy and can anything be done to combat this attitude? These questions and others along similar lines are the ones most frequently asked by our interested readers. Both questions are included in the appendix of the Perry Burgess book, WHO WALK ALONE. Mr. Burgess' answers to these questions express our own ideas on this subject. The questions printed below are quoted directly from WHO WALK ALONE.

Q. Why do people abhor and fear the disease?

A. That is a question to which no satisfactory answer can be given, since there is nothing in the disease to justify its being accorded such a special place of horror in the minds of people. Its point of infection is so low that a premeditated attempt on the part of the average individual to inoculate himself or to infect himself by association with the leprous would, in all probability, not meet with success. A heavy case of leprosy is not pleasant to look upon, but the same may be said for many other diseases which do not share in this almost universal repugnance. A very large proportion of patients bear little or no outer signs of their affliction. The disease and its victims are cursed by being labeled with a name which has come to mean that which the nature of the illness does not in any sense justify.

Q. Can anything be done to combat this attitude?

A. One of the most effective means would be to change the name. At the Leonard Wood Memorial Conference at Manila the name " Hansen's Disease " was suggested. Probably no better name could be found.

REPORT ON BRAZIL

Medical science, too, is forging a link in Pan-American cooperation. This is being demonstrated in this hospital, for from time to time Latin-American doctors have been coming here to spend several weeks on fellowships from the Leonard Wood Memorial, for the study and observation of Hansen's disease. In June the hospital was host to two Brazilian medicos, Ruben Azulay of the State Public Health Laboratory in Niteroi, capital of the State of Rio de Janeiro, and Luis Bechelli of Sao Paulo.

It is interesting to note how Brazil, which covers half of the continent of South America, deals with the problem of Hansen's disease. In its population of 50,000,000, Brazil has an estimated 50,000 cases of Hansen's disease. There are 29 leprosaria, all under control of the central government, in the United States of Brazil, hospitalizing 17,500 patients, most of whom applied voluntarily for admission. Almost every one of the 20 states has a leprosarium, and in each of the most endemic states, Para, Minas Geraes, and Sao Paulo, there are 2 or 3 institutions. The northeastern section of Brazil, where the climate is very dry, is practically free from the disease.

After a person is diagnosed, his case is considered individually. If he is of the neural type, he is not segregated. If he is of the lepromatous type and can observe the sanitary regulations, he may remain at home, otherwise he is sent to a leprosarium. If a case is not segregated, the patient is required to go to a dispensary for regular treatment and his family for periodic examinations. These dispensaries and out - patient clinics form an important part of the government's public health service.

In 1930, President Vargas began a nationwide program to combat Hansen's disease and since that time the government has spent more than five million dollars to improve the outlook of patients with Hansen's disease and to curb the spread of the disease. Dr. Ernani Argicola is head of the National Service. The government has enlarged its research program and two institutions exclusively for that purpose are now under way, one under construction at Sao Paulo.

Brazil stresses the importance of giving patients in all of its leprosaria, as nearly as possible, a normal community life. In the leprosaria may be found churches, libraries, schools, social centers, workshops and gymnasiums. There are beauty shops, radio sets, phonographs, sewing machines and books. Women patients may have courses in nursing and then work at paid jobs in the colony. There are motion pictures and parties. Patients are permitted to marry and married couples are provided with small cottages. Babies born to patients are taken from the delivery room to a prevention home. In Brazil today there are 21 of these preventoria and two more are to be built. The preventoria are an important part of the social welfare program originated by the Federacion Brazilleira de Assistencera Aos Lozaros, headed by Mrs. Eunice Weaver, a native Brazilian, wife of a North American teacher and sociologist. Mrs. Weaver has won international acclaim for her work among patients with Hansen's disease and their dependents. About 2,500 children are now living in the preventoria and approximately the same number have passed through these

homes. In the preventoria the children are cared for and trained to be self-supporting in a normal world. Many of these people now hold public offices in Brazil.

All through Brazil hospitals, schools, nurseries and kindergartens bear Mrs. Weaver's name. The Federacion of which she is president also assumes the responsibility of the rehabilitation of discharged patients. Through her efforts thousands of able-bodied citizens have been assisted to again take place in society. Since 1925 six thousand patients have been discharged from Brazil's leprosaria.

Brazil spends a considerable amount of money each year on educational publicity on Hansen's disease. Dr. Azulay tells us that all Brazil social agencies try to avoid the use of the words "leper" and "leprosy", employing instead the term Hansen's disease. However, the older terminology is still used in medical circles.

The eyes of the scientific world will be focused on Brazil in September 1946 when the International Leprosy Conference, which was to have been held in Paris, France, meets in Rio de Janeiro.

Editor's Desk - Concluded

Not until words are translated into action will many of the persons with Hansens's disease (Dr. Kellersberger recently estimated that there are 3,000 to 5,000 cases in the U. S. - - less than 400 are in this hospital) who now refuse to be officially branded, come voluntarily in the early stages of the disease to receive the benefits of new and encouraging chemotherapy. "'Tis a consumation devoutly to be wished'."

The right to criticize is the most important freedom for which we are now fighting. - - - William L. White

INTERNATIONAL MISSION MODIFIES NAME

With warm greetings to his many friends in the patient body of this hospital, Dr. R. Ben Gullison sends word of the annual meeting of the International Christian Leprosy Mission held recently. Dr. and Mrs. Gullison and their two children are in Apohaqui, Kings County, New Brunswick, Canada, awaiting sailing orders for their mission station in India. Dr. Gullison writes, "Among other things, the name of the Mission has been slightly changed from the International Christian Leper Mission to International Christian Leprosy Mission. Thus, the unfortunate word has been deleted from the name of the Society. That is, it was voted that this change be made. It will take some time for a petition will have to be filed in the Court of Pennsylvania for a change of name. I also introduced the term "Hansen's Disease" some months ago to the Directors, and they are going to make increasing use of it whenever possible. For instance, I can take just a sentence or two from the annual report of our ICLM—Rev. Harold Etter closes his report.... 'Our Mission has before us a large and effectual open door for a constructive, intelligent and thoroughly Christian approach to helping those afflicted with this disease. Let us keep clear of condoning the social ostracism of those afflicted with Hansen's Disease, for this is unjustifiable both from the medical and the New Testament standpoints'."

This news from Dr. Gullison is significant and very gratifying to us. It furnishes concrete evidence that we are making progress in the right direction. The I. C. L. M. has its home office in Portland, Oregon, and is the organization which sponsors Dr. Gullison's

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REPORT TO THE FORTY AND EIGHT

The January 1945 national magazine "The Forty and Eighter", published by and distributed to members of the Forty and Eight throughout the nation, carried a story written by S. M. Ferree, National Directeur, Voiture Activities pleading with Voyageurs throughout the nation to subscribe to The Star thereby carrying through the resolution of Promenade National to "Radiate the Light of Truth on Hansen's Disease." While the article in its entirety is excellent one part of it stands out for it expresses our sentiments so well. Mr. Ferree wrote, "With thousands of Forty and Eighters banded together in this great cause, sentiment will be created to give dignity rather than disgrace to this extremely rare and feebly communicable disease." To this we add our plea give us dignity rather than disgrace.

Printing The Star every month isn't child's play. It's work for everyone connected with it - - typists, typesetters, press-men, circulation, correspondence and the never ending quest for paper to use each month. However, it is a job that each of us, no matter what part we play in the finished issue each month, so strongly feels must be done. Our personal experiences before entering this hospital would tear at your heart strings were we to relate them. There must be a stop put to this persecution and if we, today's patients, don't devote our time and effort toward this "stop" it will persist through centuries to come as it has through centuries past.

Not one of us derives a penny from The Star funds for our time and effort. Not one of us would want it that way! We labor unceasingly in this campaign realizing that any benefits of our efforts will come, most probably, to a future generation of patients but also realizing that we might somehow smooth out the bumps for that future generation. When a new patient comes to Carville and tells us that his doctor showed him a copy of The Star when he was diagnosed we feel our labors are bearing fruit.

You Voyageurs who have championed our cause are friends indeed for you have proven yourselves to be friends in need. Your letters, your encouragement, your subscriptions make the continuance of The Star possible. Those of you whom we know personally hold a warm spot in our hearts. We won't forget your visits and your on the spot reports of our activities. Those of you whom we do not know personally but have published bulletins and made talks about us in your state in an earnest desire to boost our circulation also hold a warm spot deep within us.

We have received some cash gifts from you which have been a boon to our limited social service funds. For these gifts, too, we are grateful. Robert Beveridge Grand Correspondant of New York sent us a letter dated March 14 which reads, "Attached is a remittance from the Grande Voiture de New York in the amount of $21.38. This amount represents fines collected at our recent Grand Petite Promenade held in Albany, New York on January 30 and by a unanimous vote it was decided that the fines collected be sent to The Star for such use as you may wish to make of it."

Under date of Feb. 12 Clark E. Wells of Voiture 141, Toledo, Ohio wrote, "Having read the article by S. M. Ferree in our Forty Eighter, I decided to bring it to the attention of our Voiture 141.

A gift of $II.00 was voted on for your work and I also obtained 27 subscriptions."

From San Diego, California came a $25 check from Sous Grand Cheminot, A. L. LaVaque. The letter accompanying the check was signed by H. C. Shannon, Grand Chef de Gare who wrote, "After addressing the Voiture Locale here in San Diego a member, A. L. LaVaque, gave me a check to send you. Send him The Star for one year; the rest is a donation toward your work."

The following report is not as accurate as we would like it to be because in many cases you've failed to inform us of your 40 & 8 affiliation when sending in your subscription. It is as accurate as your letters have given us the facts. In Louisiana it is a rarity for subscriptions to arrive on 40 & 8 stationary and unless we are personally acquainted with you, we can't know of your membership. However, to each of you whether the credit is here given or not, we are grateful for your support and we trust that this year it will again be the resolution of the National Voiture to assist us in our campaign of educational publicity on Hansen's disease.

Voiture Subscriptions by States
From September 1944 to June 21, 1945

Arizona	*1*
Arkansas	*23*
Califor: ia	*183*
Colorado	*1*
Connecticut	*1*
District of Columbia	*1*
Florida	*1*
Georgia	*146*
Idaho	*2*
Illinois	*25*
Indiana	*5*
Iowa	*1*
Kansas	*2*
Kentucky	*59*
Louisiana	*71*
Maryland	*1*
Massachusetts	*3*
Michigan	*257*
Minnesota	*2*
Mississippi	*7*
Missouri	*1*
Nebraska	*1*
New Jersey	*2*
New York	*8*
Ohio	*84*
Oregon	*38*
Pennsylvania	*3*
Rhode Island	*1*
Tennessee	*1*
Texas	*3*
West Virginia	*1*
Virginia	*2*
Wisconsin	*1*
GRAND TOTAL	*938*

Voiture Supscriptions

States not listsd have no Voiture subscriptions.

National Leader of 40/8
Expected to Visit this Hospital

Spencer S. Eccles of Odgen, Utah, Chef de Chemin de Fer, La Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux, will visit this hospital on Friday, July 20th., if plans now under way are completed.

According to Voyageur B. L. Spann, Carville's good friend, the National Leader of the 40/8 will be in Louisiana's capital city on July 20th to take part in a one day promenade and business session of the Grand Voiture of La. Mr. Spann says that arrangements will be made to bring Mr. Eccles to Carville.

The 40/8 has been described as the "shock troops" of the American Legion, and this hospital has been adopted as one of their National projects. We remember with much pleasure the visit of Oscar Lamp, past Chef de Chemin de Fer in July 1944, and we are looking forward to meeting Voyageur Eccles.

International Mission Concluded

leprosarium at Sompeta, India.

The Star has had some very interesting correspondence with Mrs. Jean Etter, wife of the General Director of the I. C. L. M. Mrs. Jean Etter has assured us of the modern approach which the I. C. L. M. is taking toward our problem. She says: "What is needed is fuller understanding of the facts of the disease, automatically giving correct attitudes and word connotations. As our representatives go about the country speaking on behalf of those everywhere in the world afflicted with the disease, we endeavor to present this modern approach which we believe is only intelligent and right. We certainly are one with you in seeing the need for enlightened public opinion."

Mrs. Etter is preparing an article for THE STAR which deals with methods of public education on the subject.

Word comes that our "travelling ambassador", Harold G. Chalfant of Los Angeles, Calif., is carrying the truth about Hansen's disease to many groups on his tour of the Northwest. Mr. Chalfant, who is supervisor of 264 mission stations for the International Church of the Four-square Gospel, became interested in our problem when he visited here recently. He has been speaking in Vancouver and Spokane, Washington, Portland Oregon, Emmet, Idaho, and other cities. At Emmet, Idaho, he appeared before the Lions Club. That Mr. Chalfant's talks on our behalf are stimulating interest in the real facts about Hansen's disease is evidenced by the scores of subscriptions now coming to THE STAR.

Pass THE STAR to your friends.

A few former servicemen have become indignant because our government deducts, from those who are without dependents, a large portion of their pension or compensation. This governmental action is in accord with the policy concerning Veterans Hospitals, but this is not a hospital nor is it limited to veterans. Here, living is not confined to a bed.

As living is expensive in any town, so it is here and the deduction of any portion of the income of these men is regrettable. It destroys any opportunity for a nickle and dime savings account that may, upon their discharge, mean a temporary security and a chance to reestablish themselves.

However, I think it is advisable for the few veterans who in their awareness of this deficiency in Veterans Legislation, have voiced the opinion that, "If the non-service patients do not have to pay, why should I?" they would realize that the position of the entire patient body is congruous. Like these veterans the income of other patients has been stopped. In return the government furnishes both with the bare necessities.

It is a common problem that involves the inability of some dischargees to accept discharge. So long as the possibilities for earning or the provisions for a compensatory income are denied, the possibility of a period of establishment is also destroyed. It is a common problem — let us deal with it in concord.

Symphonettes Debut

The Carville Symphonettes, personnel orchestra, conducted by Dr. G. L. Fite, made their premiere public appearance in the local theatre on June 19 before a polite and generally responsive audience. By far the most popular selection of the concert was "La Paloma" which did bring demands for the orchestra to repeat it and at the conductor's request, the audience joined with them by singing.

From the position of musicianship "Lustspiel" came nearest to the observance of the fundamentals of phrasing, sectional balance, intonation, tone control and a common tempo. The timid strings, breathless brass, and the erratic dynamics of the woods combined with general atonality served to dim the ambitious program prepared, but the Symphonettes became progressively confident and their performance bore the same relation.

The initial portion of the three part program was composed of marches. The orchestra, with a heavy tapping of feet, searched through seven of these before they arrived at "The Stars and Stripes Forever". Here, the orchestra discovered a sympathetic feeling for the march and with a free expression of real enjoyment by the trombone rose to climatic ending.

The section featuring waltzes was opened by Franz Lehar's, "Merry Widow Waltz". A generous measure of feeling for the lift and lilt of this free flowing melody with the gently swinging tones of the woodwinds lulled the listeners into a dreamy appreciation. However, in the succeeding waltzes, the phrasing was mangled by the faulty breath control in the winds and frequently the saxophonist was abandoned on a harmonic tone surrounded by a well of silence.

The interpretation of the "Elves Dance" from Tschaikowsky's "Nutcracker Suite" found the "Elves" tripping lightly and brightly on the heavy, clumsy feet of dull-witted elephants. Frequently the Symphonettes, except for one judiciously on-the-beat clarinet, seemed lost, but the "Elves" found themselves as the sax and trombone inserted a "boogie" beat.

The orchestration for "The Merry Widow Waltz" was well adapted to the instrumentation, a fact which should receive consideration in the choice of future arrangements. Too, the strength of tone shown in the last sixteen bars of "Huldigung's March" bodes well for the future of the orchestra.

Members of the orchestra are: Dr. G. L. Fite, flute; Mrs. R. C. Pogge and Mrs. G. L. Fite, violins; Mr. M. Nicolosi and Dr. R. C. Pogge, clarinets; Mrs. G. H. Faget, piano; Dr. B. M. Prejean. trombone; Mr. P. J. Cambre, tympani; Mr. W. Benoit, tuba; Mr. E. Marchand and Miss B. L. Marchand, trumpets.

Key Pitt

FUN ON FOURTH

A ball game, contests galore, supper under the oaks, and dancing will feature our celebration of the glorious 4th. The program, full of fun and frolic, is being planned by Patients' Federation with the assistance of the Recreational Aide, Morgan. As a special attraction Mr. Morgan is trying to get the Jax Women's Soft Ball Teams of New Orleans to play here. If the Jax Teams cannot come, there will be a game between two teams from White Castle. A visiting orchestra will give out with peppy music and there will be prizes for the best waltz, fox trot, jitterbug, rumba and conga, couples.

Concluded from page 4

ence that their purpose was to educate the people, and that they needed our help in this matter. I told him then that one of the great purposes of this Mission is to educate American and world opinion about the true standing of leprosy as a disease and how to prevent it, especially in children, and to give those who are unfortunate enough to have it the comfort of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and shelter and healing where possible. The sure fact remains that the Founder of Christianity, Jesus Christ, touched people with leprosy (Luke 5: 12 & 13) and sat at meat with them (Mark 14: 3). Through the centuries He has said to us "Go thou and do likewise".

Yet we won't ever end the tragedy of the name by merely changing it. It will likely always be used as well as the name Hansen's disease. Let us change the attitude of the world towards this disease. Let us break up the indifference of the medical profession and the ignorance of the layman. Let us educate the religious leaders also.

Dr. Lendrum refers to the presence of leprosy in "southeastern Europe". If he will study the literature, he will find that there are also a large number of cases in Portugal and Spain, and other European countries. I was recently warned not even to mention the fact that there was leprosy in Portugal, lest I offend that government. How tragic! If a government assumes such an attitude, we are again facing the same old problem. But we don't have to leave our own country to find such an attitude! We are grateful to Dr, Lendrum for his fine article and we throw out the challenge to him and others to help change these things by getting the whole midical profession interested, and making this a question of public health and a challenge to practice our Christianity.

Editor's Note Concluded

position immediately and demanded that she leave at once for the hospital in Carville. She explained that she wished to give her employer sufficient notice before her resignation and also that it would be necessary for her to have a suitable wardrobe for hospital use, especially sensible shoes, before she could leave. The doctor protested and told her that all necessary clothing would be furnished at the hospital. He warned her not to mingle with the public, although by no stretch of the imagination, even the will-o'-the-wisp theory on which the doctor probably based his opinion, could this girl have menaced the health or happiness of any person by ordinary casual contact.

Despite the doctor's objections she sneaked around back streets like a fugitive, trying to get a few things together, but she dared not be so bold as to try on shoes.

Through the years B. M. has taken excellent care of herself. Today she is in the same splendid physical condition that she was at the time of diagnosis. Even a trained Professional eye could not tell her from any other normal, healthy person, indeed many a visiting doctor in our hospital laboratory where B. M. was employed for several years as a technician, was nonplussed when told that she was a patient.

Betty Martin has written "WHY AM I NOT FREE?", hoping that it will serve to arouse public interest in our problem, whereby some of the injustices and cruel practices which have brought mental anguish to her, to me and others who have been here for many years, as well as to our families, will be spared to those patients who are to follow.

WILLIAM'S CHIN-WAGGIN

A confidential report from the B-Natural Music Club stated that its monthly bingo games are dwindling, in spite of the charm of its operators. It seems that the BNMC's source of eternal revenue will be cut off entirely if something isn't done about it very soon. We suggest the gals hire a public relations officer.

Do you feel tired, run down, irritable and have pains in your limbs lately? If you do, here's good news: try taking 20 c.c. of the gen-u-wine Pogge Cocktail daily. Composed of promin, liquid Vitamin B-1 and Calcium. Guaranteed to make you a new man in two days or two more "shots" free.

I've just received a letter from one of our readers (you guessed it-- a very dear friend of mine) which said, "I just received my copy of The Star and am enjoying it no end. There is one thing missing, however, and that is the light side of the reading matter. There is, I believe, a certain amount of foolishness in all things . . . Some people might turn up their noses and pretend indifference, but I'll bet you a coke they will read the next one for fear of missing something. Let's have some Chin-Waggin". So if I make the rest of you readers mad don't blame me.

Amid all the confusion and humbug in the world, life is still bearable in Carville, it still has spice. And for that I, as the lightening bug said when it lost its tail, am delighted --no end.

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SPORTS

by Nick Farrel

Carville's sport spotlight at the present time is dominated by the ever popular softball. Here, as everywhere, the game serves two purposes; to entertain the spectators and as an outlet for youthful competitive spirit.

Its entertainment value is rated high here judged by the game attendance and the important part it plays in our daily conversations. At times the competitive spirit flares to the boiling point. However, after the game, all is forgiven. Heckling the umpire, a pastime common both to fans and players, brings a touch of Brooklyn to Carville. The officials, Willen and Castillo are doing a bang up job of officiating the games.

As the highly contested first round draws to a close, the Blues have a two game lead over the Legionnaires.

Following the 5 - 5 deadlock in standings, the Legion team batted its way to a 10 - 7 advantage. Their penant dreams were shattered, however as the Blues snapped into mid-season form with six straight victories. A fast playing infield coupled with timely extra base hits has placed them within one game of the first round crown.

Mr. Morgan, the Recreational Aide, has ordered badminton and shuffle board equipment. The games will be played indoors in the recreation building.

The Swingcopators, the patients' own jive-making group; Perry on the violin; Philomino and Guy, guitars; Delfin, mandolin; and Henry, piano; received a shot in the arm by the addition of Mr. Morgan with his home-made musical contraption (bazooka or what is it).

CHIT—CHAT ..... by Ann Page

Carville is a topsy-turvy place! Our beautiful theater is equipped with a ventilating system which is supposed to be turned on by pressing a button. Judging from the way we swelter in it, the button is evidently corroded from not being pushed. Could it be we need an automatic button to push the button?

Our cement walks have drains in the high spots which necessitates our wading through water in the numerous low spots after each rain.

The women here for years have had to pump antiquated old treadle sewing machines to make their clothing. About a year ago two men's houses were issued electric machines for odd sewing jobs. This was too much for the women to take and by a process of pleas, petitions and irksome interviews it was learned that electric sewing machines have for years been gathering dust in a warehouse right here in Carville. This is one topsy-turvy which will soon turn right side up for each woman's house will have the sewing machine, which rightfully belongs in the Smithsonian Institute, replaced with an electric one.

When fabric was plentiful it was necessary to lose one's temper to make the temperamental machine work; now the electric machines will sew with ease and one's temper is worn to a frazzle trying to buy the material from a mail order catalog which persistently returns the money with a notation, "Sorry - not available."

Our veranda chairs and fern tables are receiving a fresh coat of green paint. This should add a bit to the appearance of our much used porches.

The rocking chair brigade is busy with hand work of all descriptions now. Needles of various kinds are clicking away at knitting, crocheting and embroidering. The quotation "For Satan finds some mischief still, for idle hands to do" certainly doesn't apply to these girls.

The Star offices consist of 3 rooms each approximately 10' x 16'. The one where the press is located is also the one where The Stars are assembled and stapled. It takes many hands many hours to complete this job on 2,000 copies. Climbing over each other in such crowded quarters and in such hot weather is very unpleasant. Johnny O'Brien and Mr. Morgan, our Recreation Aide, had a brain child. They got some extra tables and put them on the big front porch of House 15. This provided fresh air, light and elbow room. Then. too, Carville's curious would stop to ask "What's cooking?" and we'd have them lending their hands before they realized it. Thanks to all of you and come back next month.

The June 1945 Star marked an anniversary for us - one year of printing our magazine here. It also marked an innovation - we used our Addressette for the first time. Every one of those tiny stencils was cut right here on the school typewriters and Paul and Henry, two students who have learned touch typing here, deserve a large hand out of thanks for the hours of typing they put into them.

One of The Star's typists operates a hand laundry. He is a loquacious fellow who really likes to chin with the gals. Several days ago a couple of gals came into his shop to talk while he was pressing a skirt. He became so interested in the gab that the skirt began to burn. The girls began teasing him and what a surprise one of them got when the fellow said "That is your skirt burning!"

PERSONNEL PERSONALS

By Mary E. Browne

Visitors to the station on Saturday, May 26th, included Mrs. Frank D. McCreary, and her sister-in-law, Miss McCreary, who came here from Pineville, Louisiana where the McCrearys are making their home while Major Frank D. McCreary is on duty in the South Pacific.

The Graduating Exercises of the St. Gabriel High School were held on the evening of May 30th. There were 10 graduates and in this number were included two of the station personnel - Mary Belle Brackin and Martha Roberts (who gave the Salutatory). The Valedictorian of the class was Ollie Mae Peltier. Music for the dance which followed the graduating exercises was furnished by Johnny Detroit's Orchestra of New Orleans. Many of the station personnel attended.

Recent guests of Mrs. Charles Johnson at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Stanley, were Sergeant and Mrs. Robert Fullicke from Houston, Texas.

The station children will be on vacation after June 5th — but two of our boys are home already; they are Guy Faget and Perry Butler, who have been attending the Gulf Coast Military Academy at Gulfport, Mississippi.

Odom Amedee, recently discharged from the United States Army, has resumed his duties as technician in the hospital laboratory.

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FURTHER FACTS

In 1874 G. Armauer Hansen, a Norwegian physician, announced his discovery of the germ which causes the disease. In appearance and size it closely resembles the germ which causes tuberculosis, the tubercle bacillus. In single organisms it is impossible for the "Laboratory" to distinguish between the two germs.

Since Hansen's isolation of the bacillus, hundreds of attempts have been made to grow it in artificial media but to date none of these have successfully met the requirements for proof, and all attempted innoculations of animals have been unsuccessful to the same extent. No scientist in more than 40 recorded cases has been able to infect himself or other human volunteers by attempted innoculation of the germ.

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE DISEASE IS THE BIG PROBLEM in Hansen's. Once that is determined, the 6000 year old practice of imprisoning a person for life because he happens to be sick should be done away with.

Despite the fact that among the many leprosaria scattered throughout the world thousands of well workers, religious and lay, have been in daily association with the patients the incidence of infection is very small In some of these cases reasonable doubt existed as to whether the individual acquired the infection in this leprosarium. This is especially true when the infected person is a native of a section of the country where the disease occurs frequently or when the disease is known to have existed in the family. Neither factor was present in the much publicized case of Father Damien but his biographers assert that "The good father never took any precautions against infection but lived continuously under unhygienic conditions." His successor, Brother Joseph Dutton, worked in daily intimate contact with patients for over 40 years without contracting the disease.

FACTS, based on actual experience over a long period of years (the most valid scientific yardstick), furnish indubitable proof of the remoteness of the communicability of Hansen's disease.

A man or woman may remain in perfect physical health for years after contracting Hansen's disease. Half the patients now at Carville could sit unnoted in any social gathering.

Hansen's is not included in the list of quarantinable diseases in New York State and patients in that State are subject to no restrictions. (1 down, 47 to go).

This paper, and all outgoing mail, is sterilized before leaving the hospital

Prints of pictures appearing in THE STAR may be purchased from John P. Harris, Carville, Louisiana.

This activity is open to all interested patients. The Star in its entirety is hand set by patients. Subscribers, kindly notify us of change of address. The Star cannot be forwarded.

Leprosy is a disease which it is almost impossible to catch, but unfortunately the public has very much the opposite idea, so that the leprosy victim has been, I think, disgracefully, very expensively, very stupidly treated, by extreme isolation. This isolation is because of superstitions on the part of the public that a leprosy victim, who almost never gives anybody disease, should be shut up tight, while syphilitics and the tuberculous go free. This is one of the paradoxes and abominations of our system.

A very unintelligent and very stubborn prejudice still persuades people that leprosy is a highly contagious disease. It is not impossible to catch it, but it is one of the least contagious of all diseases, and we are all exposed every day to more contagious ones.

Richard C. Cabot M. D.
Boston Mass.

The late Dr. Cabot was recognized as one of America's most brilliant physicians. He was Professor of Clinical Medicine at Harvard University, and a foremost figure in the new science of medical social service.